

APPENDIX A - SPECIFICATION/CLAIM AMENDMENTS
INCLUDING NOTATIONS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE

Serial No.: 10/032,049

Docket No.: 150.01180101

Amendments to the following are indicated by underlining what has been added and bracketing what has been deleted. Additionally, all amendments have been indicated by the use of bold font.

In the Claims

For convenience, all pending claims are shown below.

1. (Amended) A planarization method comprising:
positioning a metal-containing surface of a substrate to interface with a polishing surface, wherein the metal-containing surface comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;
supplying a planarization composition in proximity to the interface; and
planarizing the substrate surface;
wherein the planarization composition comprises a halogen-containing compound and a halide salt, which are separately delivered; **and**
wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of a halogen; an interhalogen; a halogen-generating compound selected from the group consisting of XeF₂, HgF₂, SF₆, alkyl halides, and complexes of X, with organic bases; and combinations thereof.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the metal-containing surface of the substrate comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof, which is in elemental form or an alloy thereof.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the metal-containing surface of the substrate comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB second row metal, a Group

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VIIIB third row metal, a Group IB second row metal, a Group IB third row metal, and a combination thereof.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the metal-containing surface of the substrate comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of Rh, Pd, Pt, Ir, and Ru.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the metal-containing surface comprises elemental platinum.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the metal is present in an amount of about 50 atomic percent or more.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is a semiconductor substrate or substrate assembly.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the polishing surface comprises a polishing pad and the planarization composition comprises a plurality of abrasive particles.
9. The method of claim 1 which is carried out in one step.
10. **Canceled**
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11. **(Amended)** The method of claim 1[10] wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of F₂, Cl₂, Br₂, I₂, ClBr, IBr, ICl, BrF, ClF, ClF₃, BrF₃, ClF₅, IF₅, IF₇, XeF₂, HgF₂, SF₄, alkyl halides, and complexes of X₂ with organic bases, and combinations thereof.

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- 11 ~~12~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the halide salt is an inorganic salt.
- 11
- 12 ~~13~~. The method of claim ~~12~~ wherein the inorganic halide salt is selected from the group consisting of NaI, KCl, KBr, NH₄F, and combinations thereof.
- 13 ~~14~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the halide salt is an organic salt.
- 13
- 14 ~~15~~. The method of claim ~~14~~ wherein the organic salt is selected from the group consisting of Et₄NBr, Me₃NHCl, Me₄NF, and combinations thereof.
- 15 ~~16~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the halogen-containing compound is present in the planarization composition in an amount of at least about 0.1% by weight and the halide salt is present in the planarization composition in an amount of at least about 0.1% by weight.
- 16 ~~17~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the polishing surface comprises a fixed abrasive article.
- 17 ~~18~~. (Amended) A planarization method comprising:
- providing a semiconductor substrate or substrate assembly including at least one region of a platinum-containing surface;
 - providing a polishing surface;
 - providing a planarization composition at an interface between the at least one region of platinum-containing surface and the polishing surface; and
 - planarizing the at least one region of platinum-containing surface;
- wherein the planarization composition comprises a halogen-containing compound and a halide salt, which are separately delivered; and

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wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of a halogen; an interhalogen; a halogen-generating compound selected from the group consisting of XeF_2 , HgF_2 , SF_6 , alkyl halides, and complexes of X_2 with organic bases; and combinations thereof.

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~~19~~ The method of claim ~~18~~¹⁷ wherein the platinum-containing surface of the substrate comprises platinum in elemental form.
- 19
~~20~~ The method of claim ~~18~~¹⁷ wherein the platinum is present in an amount of about 50 atomic percent or more.
- 20
~~21~~ The method of claim ~~18~~¹⁷ wherein the semiconductor substrate or substrate assembly is a silicon wafer.
- 21
~~22~~ The method of claim ~~18~~¹⁷ wherein the polishing surface comprises a polishing pad and the planarization composition comprises a plurality of abrasive particles.
23. Canceled
- 22
~~24~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~¹⁷[23] wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of F_2 , Cl_2 , Br_2 , I_2 , ClBr , IBr , ICl , BrF , ClF , ClF_3 , BrF_3 , ClF_5 , IF_5 , IF_7 , XeF_2 , HgF_2 , SF_6 , alkyl halides, and complexes of X_2 with organic bases, and combinations thereof.
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~~25~~ The method of claim ~~18~~¹⁷ wherein the halide salt is an inorganic salt.

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- ~~24~~ ²³ 26. The method of claim ~~25~~ wherein the inorganic halide salt is selected from the group consisting of NaI, KCl, KBr, NH₄F and combinations thereof.
- ~~25~~ ¹⁷ 27. The method of claim ~~18~~ wherein the halide salt is an organic salt.
- ~~26~~ ²⁵ 28. The method of claim ~~27~~ wherein the organic salt is selected from the group consisting of Et₄NBr, Me₃NHCl, Me₄NF, and combinations thereof.
- ~~27~~ ¹⁷ 29. The method of claim ~~18~~ wherein the halogen-containing compound is present in the planarization composition in an amount of at least about 0.1% by weight and the halide salt is present in the planarization composition in an amount of at least about 0.1% by weight.
- ~~28~~ ¹⁷ 30. The method of claim ~~18~~ wherein the polishing surface comprises a fixed abrasive article.
- ~~29~~ ¹⁷ 31. A planarization method comprising:
 - positioning a metal-containing surface of a substrate to interface with a polishing surface, wherein the metal-containing surface comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;
 - supplying a planarization composition in proximity to the interface; and
 - planarizing the substrate surface;
 - wherein the planarization composition comprises:
 - a halogen-containing compound selected from the group consisting of F₂, Cl₂, Br₂, I₂, ClBr, IBr, ICl, BrF, ClF, ClF₃, BrF₃, ClF₅, IF₅, IF₇, XeF₂, HgF₂, SF₆, alkyl halides, and complexes of X₂ with organic bases, and combinations thereof; and
 - a halide salt selected from the group consisting of NaI, KCl,

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KBr, NH_4F , Et_4NBr , Me_3NHCl , Me_4NF , and combinations thereof;
wherein the halogen-containing compound and the halide salt
are separately delivered.

~~30~~ 32. ²⁹ The method of claim ~~31~~ wherein the halogen-containing compound is present in the planarization composition in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight.

~~31~~ 33. ²⁹ The method of claim ~~31~~ wherein the halide salt is present in the planarization composition in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight.

~~32~~ 34. A planarization method comprising:
providing a semiconductor substrate or substrate assembly including at least one region of a platinum-containing surface;
providing a polishing surface;
providing a planarization composition at an interface between the at least one region of platinum-containing surface and the polishing surface; and
planarizing the at least one region of platinum-containing surface;
wherein the planarization composition comprises:
a halogen-containing compound selected from the group consisting of F_2 , Cl_2 , Br_2 , I_2 , ClBr , IBr , ICl , BrF , ClF , ClF_3 , BrF_3 , ClF_5 , IF_3 , IF_7 , XeF_2 , HgF_2 , SF_6 , alkyl halides, and complexes of X_2 with organic bases, and combinations thereof; and
a halide salt selected from the group consisting of NaI , KCl , KBr , NH_4F , Et_4NBr , Me_3NHCl , Me_4NF , and combinations thereof;
wherein the halogen-containing compound and the halide salt
are separately delivered.

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~~33~~ ³² 35. The method of claim ~~34~~ wherein the halogen-containing compound is present in the planarization composition in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight.

~~34~~ ³² 36. The method of claim ~~34~~ wherein the halide salt is present in the planarization composition in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight.

~~35~~ ³² 37. (Amended) A planarization method for use in forming an interconnect, the method comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate or substrate assembly having a patterned dielectric layer formed thereon and a metal-containing layer formed over the patterned dielectric layer, wherein the metal-containing layer comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;

positioning a first portion of a polishing surface for contact with the metal-containing layer;

providing a planarization composition in proximity to the contact between the polishing surface and the metal-containing layer; and

planarizing the metal-containing layer;

wherein the planarization composition comprises a halogen-containing compound and a halide salt, which are separately delivered; and

wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of a halogen; an interhalogen; a halogen-generating compound selected from the group consisting of XeF_2 , HgF_2 , SF_6 , alkyl halides, and complexes of X, with organic bases; and combinations thereof.

~~36~~ ³⁵ 38. The method of claim ~~37~~ wherein the polishing surface comprises a polishing pad and the planarization composition comprises a plurality of abrasive particles.

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~~39.~~ Canceled

~~37~~³⁵/~~40.~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~³⁵[~~39~~] wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of F₂, Cl₂, Br₂, I₂, ClBr, IBr, ICl, BrF, ClF, ClF₃, BrF₃, ClF₅, IF₅, IF₇, XeF₂, HgF₂, SF₄, alkyl halides, and complexes of X₂ with organic bases, and combinations thereof.

~~36~~³⁵/~~41.~~ The method of claim ~~37~~³⁵ wherein the halide salt is an inorganic salt.

~~39~~³⁸/~~42.~~ The method of claim ~~41~~³⁸ wherein the inorganic halide salt is selected from the group consisting of NaI, KCl, KBr, NH₄F and combinations thereof.

~~40~~³⁵/~~43.~~ The method of claim ~~37~~³⁵ wherein the halide salt is an organic salt.

~~41~~⁴⁰/~~44.~~ The method of claim ~~43~~⁴⁰ wherein the organic salt is selected from the group consisting of Et₄NBr, Me₃NHCl, Me₄NF, and combinations thereof.

~~42~~³⁵/~~45.~~ The method of claim ~~37~~³⁵ wherein the halogen-containing compound is present in the planarization composition in an amount of at least about 0.1% by weight.

~~43~~⁴²/~~46.~~ The method of claim ~~45~~⁴² wherein the halogen-containing compound is present in the planarization composition in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight.

~~44~~³⁵/~~47.~~ The method of claim ~~37~~³⁵ wherein the halide salt is present in the planarization composition in an amount of at least about 0.1% by weight.

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- ~~45~~⁴⁴ 48. The method of claim ~~47~~⁴⁴ wherein the halide salt is present in the planarization composition in an amount of about 1% to about 10% by weight.
- ~~46~~³⁵ 49. The method of claim ~~47~~³⁵ wherein the polishing surface comprises a fixed abrasive article.
- ~~47~~⁵⁰ 50. A planarization method for use in forming an interconnect, the method comprising:
- providing a semiconductor substrate or substrate assembly having a patterned dielectric layer formed thereon and a metal-containing layer formed over the patterned dielectric layer, wherein the metal-containing layer comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;
 - positioning a first portion of a polishing surface for contact with the metal-containing layer;
 - providing a planarization composition in proximity to the contact between the polishing surface and the metal-containing layer; and
 - planarizing the metal-containing layer;
- wherein the planarization composition comprises:
- a halogen-containing compound selected from the group consisting of F₂, Cl₂, Br₂, I₂, ClBr, IBr, ICl, BrF, ClF, ClF₃, BrF₃, ClF₅, IF₅, IF₇, XeF₂, HgF₂, SF₆, alkyl halides, and complexes of X₂ with organic bases, and combinations thereof; and
 - a halide salt selected from the group consisting of NaI, KCl, KBr, NH₄F, Et₄NBr, Me₃NHCl, Me₄NF, and combinations thereof;
- wherein the halogen-containing compound and the halide salt are separately delivered.
- ~~48~~⁵¹ 51. A planarization method comprising:

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positioning a metal-containing surface of a substrate to interface with a polishing surface, wherein the metal-containing surface comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;

supplying a planarization composition in proximity to the interface;

and

planarizing the substrate surface;

wherein the planarization composition comprises:

a halogen-containing compound selected from the group consisting of ClBr, IBr, ICl, BrF, ClF, ClF₃, BrF₃, ClF₅, IF₅, IF₇, XeF₂, HgF₂, SF₄, alkyl halides, and complexes of X₂ with organic bases, and combinations thereof; and

a halide salt selected from the group consisting of NaI, KCl, KBr, NH₄F, Et₄NBr, Me₃NHCl, Me₄NF, and combinations thereof;

wherein the halogen-containing compound and the halide salt are separately delivered.

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52.

(Amended) A planarization method comprising:

positioning a metal-containing surface of a substrate to interface with a polishing surface, wherein the metal-containing surface comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIIIB metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;

supplying a planarization composition in proximity to the interface; and

planarizing the substrate surface;

wherein the planarization composition comprises a halogen-containing compound and a halide salt; **and further**

wherein the halogen of the halogen-containing compound is different than the halogen of the halide salt; **and**

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wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of a halogen; an interhalogen; a halogen-generating compound selected from the group consisting of XeF_2 , HgF_2 , SF_6 , alkyl halides, and complexes of X_2 with organic bases; and combinations thereof.

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~~50.~~ (Amended) A planarization method comprising:

positioning a metal-containing surface of a substrate to interface with a polishing surface, wherein the metal-containing surface comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIII B metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;

supplying a planarization composition in proximity to the interface; and

planarizing the substrate surface;

wherein the planarization composition comprises a halogen-containing compound and a halide salt; **and further**

wherein the planarization composition is not basic; **and**

wherein the halogen-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of a halogen; an interhalogen; a halogen-generating compound selected from the group consisting of XeF_2 , HgF_2 , SF_6 , alkyl halides, and complexes of X_2 with organic bases; and combinations thereof.